

THE LATE GOV. WORTH.

The lateness of the hour at which we received the notice of ex Gov. WORTH'S death, precluded any extended notice of a patriot, an able public servant and an honest man. North Carolina may well regret the loss of such a citizen. In the best hours of his history he was called to the gubernatorial chair, who, unbiassed by partisan prejudice, and unswayed by military tyranny, administered the laws of the State in the service of justice, and up the honor and rights of her citizens against falsehood, misrepresentation and oppression of irresponsible and irresponsible power. He was the last of a list of true North Carolinians placed in the front rank of coming public servants, as they of their highest admiration and respect. So long as North Carolina is held dear, the name of WORTH will be revered and remembered by her citizens.

Virginia and Attorney General Hoar, Attorney General Hoar, while he gives his opinion that no test oath is required of the members of the Legislature of Virginia, very emphatically says: "The opinion, therefore, that it may be required, is the only one that Congress has approved of the constitution and the proper place in the Union by recognizing the government as a Republic, and admitting to representation, the Legislature is not to be a Legislature if the test oath has not been required of its members; and that no officer or member of the constitution can enter the duties of his office, without taking the test oath." It is to be said, the Legislature may meet and adopt the 15th amendment to the United States Constitution, and the members must then go to their homes and wait for the action of Congress in the matter.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 6th inst. states that the proclamation of the President General relative to the election in Virginia is in course of preparation, but may be briefly delayed by a number of points which are now under consideration. It is, therefore, may not be issued until the latter part of next week or the week following. But it will be delayed longer than that.

The Legislature, of course, meets the 14th Thursday after the day the proclamation is issued, whatever day that may be. The arrival and the publication of Mr. Grant's opinion gave great satisfaction to the community. The feeling did not vent in any public way, there was no effervescence, no demonstration; but the public mind rested. Peace and repose, confidence and serenity, prevailed. People were relieved from anxiety, and the fears of a new civil war were ended.

PARTY MATTERS.

There have been forcibly struck with the report of our correspondent "X," published in the Journal of the 1st inst., and as we look on to the future with his former position in regard to political matters, it is as pleasure to endorse much which he has said and to commend him. Most of the contentions are in strict accordance with what has appeared in these columns.

It seems that a division in the Radical ranks is to be followed by one among the Conservatives, or such is threatened, if certain papers and politicians have any weight in the State. We have already in vain to conservative papers to have political discussions and to ward off antagonistic political family quarrels, by turning the attention of the people towards local reconstruction, which is certainly much out of point as political reconstruction. Any and all political excitement present in North Carolina are needless and hurtful. We have no general contentions pending and none soon to occur.

Local contentions local interests and will lead to terms of compromise between parties and factions without committing individuals or parties to any particular organization. Such combinations are made to serve temporary and local interests and not to the permanent good of the State, only those to the pending election.

Moreover much some papers affect to know that but two of them, one in Salisbury and the other in Charlotte, do not heartily endorse the Conservative platform and canvass of the Spring of 1867, any attempted evasion now is but pretence, from motives of imagined policy, most honorable records of their existence and services. Even if it is safe and profitable to sink principle for policy now, it is contemptible to go back upon an honorable past to make a false record for the future. If North Carolina must needs compromise her pride and principle, let a clear line be drawn between the past and the future and let none dare go beyond this sacred boundary to find precedents for excuses for their conduct.

It is proposed to disband the Conservative party, for what? Not to organize for a campaign, for there is none pending. Not to defeat Radicalism on account of the present division in that party, by a further division in our own.

It is to be said that there is a morbid desire to do something—to get up some excitement—for and for want of something better to do—to follow the examples of Virginia and Tennessee. In those States, great reconstruction was desired, and a proscription constitution was to be defeated. In the latter case the disfranchisement was to be obliterated from the State Constitution. To make one of these great ends, the Democrats are organization and make common cause with that wing of the Republican party which agreed with them upon these questions. In North Carolina we

have not and cannot have any such issues. We have been reconstructed—there is nothing proscription in our State Constitution—no man is disfranchised except upon criminal conviction. Is this new party desired because of a sensitive objection to the name of Democrat, which lingers in the hearts of many of its old enemies. This is needless, for in this State the name has certainly been rendered, and none of the distinguished gentlemen who formerly were its leaders have been urged by their former friends for any leading office in the State, and but few of them occupied prominent positions in the Conventions or in the direction of the canvasses which have taken place in the State since the war. There has been no conduct on the part of those who were formerly Democrats to warrant this feeling.

We have frequently announced our willingness to lead or follow into any organization which will defeat the party in power, for the corruptions, proscriptions and tyrannies of the Radical party form the most solid and substantial basis of the unity of their opponents. Its defeat and destruction are the greatest boons which patriots can confer upon their country. To accomplish this end we will labor unceasingly with political friend and foe. But this opposition to Radicalism must be honest, bold and universal. We will not stoop to swap a witch for the devil. If we are called upon to abandon the leader of GRAHAM, BRAGG, COWAN, HOWARD, VANCE, GAITHER, HALL, and their noble compatriots, to follow such Liberal Republicans as HOLDEN, TOLSON, LEE, ROSS, POOL and SETTLER, merely to substitute HOLDEN for BRAGG in the Senate, or to compliment GRANT'S administration with a quasi approval, which we do not feel and do not desire, or yet to follow such doubtful lights as Generals CLAYTON, BARRETT, and MARSH, for the political promotion of the former to the Senate, we will have none of it. The people of North Carolina will not lose from their reliable moorings and venture so much for such paltry considerations.

If, however, we can organize to redeem North Carolina from the vandals who are destroying her reputation and her prosperity, then will the people endorse it. An economical and just administration of the State government; a reduction of taxes; honest and capable men in charge of public offices and public works; an entire reformation and reorganization of our judiciary; the promotion of virtue and intelligence over vice and ignorance, are the rallying cries of party organization and party success. By these signs we can and will conquer. For these ends, at the proper time, let political combinations be formed and we will be "heroes in the strife."

But in the meanwhile let us devote our time and talents to the material and social advancement of our people. From France comes reported excitement in the Paris "Bourse," consequent upon the unsatisfactory state of the Emperor's health. There is some excuse for this feverishness in the financial circle of a country which for the past three-quarters of a century has been so often shocked by the violence of revolutions. Change of dynasty in any country so prone as France to extremes in action, may well be dreaded, and we look with intense interest to the time when Napoleon shall be succeeded by his son, or by bloody anarchy. These preliminary remarks will be excused as introductory to the consideration of the financial condition of our own country. Whether treated politically or commercially, it is the ruling interest of the United States. It is one which affects all; not one can ignore it. Upon its stability rests the welfare of every man, woman and child. Four years and a half have passed since the great revolution involving the rights of States was ended. The administration has had undisputed and unlimited power in every branch of government. Taxation has been imposed in such a manner as was heretofore undreamed of in this country. Officers of its own selection, to execute enactments of its own, swarm over the land; every appliance that can well be conceived is used to collect the revenue of the country; a loud proclamation daily goes to the world that the debt is diminishing. Our crops are reported as unprecedentedly large, and economy is held up as the rule in every part of the general administration.

With such a condition of government, we are every few weeks or months startled by some extraordinary rise or fall in the value of the national currency, which unsettles the business of the country to such an extent as to destroy all confidence in either individual ability, banking reliability or national probity and wisdom. During the time that Northern capitalists were making purchases abroad, gold found its lowest mark, but when these bondholders have laid in a foreign supply and the articles are for sale to our own people, up goes gold as if the revolution of '61 still raged and the Confederates had just crossed to the north side of the Potomac. What is the meaning of this? Money was never known to be so stringent. The circulating currency—greenbacks and national bank notes, never were as scarce; and yet in one week gold has advanced nearly five per cent. Is it not possible for the government, which has entire control of the financial system of the nation, to do something which will stop these ruinous fluctuations? Is the United States Government a party to this outrageous system of gambling? Gambling upon the necessities of our overtaxed and distracted people. If it is so interesting to show to us, who furnish the means for the sport, some of the actual winnings or losses. This the people have a right to demand. Does the Secretary of the Treasury take part for his own benefit in this "bulling" and "bearing"? Some explanation is demanded; but the country would prefer that some stability should be given to its funds; that the citizen should be able to compute his own property and to form some estimate of what the country owns and owes. The people have a right to know, and they demand from their agents a thorough examination of, and report upon, the condition of its finances. Honestly, fearlessly, and ability are now indispensable. The agents of our choosing must give an account of their work in office. It is expected that these agents devote their talents to the interest of the country in the sphere in which they have been placed. The President has just been called to the Capital of the nation by the death of his most trusted, most honest and perhaps most able Cabinet officer. Let him remain at his post now, recall from electioneering tours and manipulations of which key and gold rings, the rest of his Cabinet and earnestly to work to correct this crushing evil which is eating up the substance of the nation and poisoning the morals of its people. If Grant can be metamorphosed into an Andrew Johnson, and Boutwell into an Alexander Hamilton; the nation will be safe. This can hardly be expected. Miracles do sometimes occur now. We hope President Grant will comprehend his whole duty and will have the firmness and ability to do it.

The examination into the cases of the Lenoir county prisoners was concluded before Judge Thomas Saturday. From the Newbern Journal of Commerce we continue to compile an account of the examination. In the case of Mr. Jesse C. Kennedy, the same testimony, as in the case of the others, charged with conspiracy, was brought, and he was placed under bond of \$10,000 for his appearance at the next term of the Lenoir county Superior Court, and to keep the peace against Joseph P. Parrott, G. W. Tillou, Joseph Lassiter and all good citizens of the State, in the sum of \$25,000. The case of the State against A. Munroe was then called. Mr. Hubbard, counsel for the defence, stated Mr. Munroe was not ready for trial at present in consequence of the absence of most material witnesses, and moved a continuance of the case; one of the witnesses, a most important one, a boy of fourteen years of age, who came here on Tuesday, had mysteriously disappeared and could not be found. The examination of A. Munroe for murder was then commenced by Judge Thomas reading the warrant and accusation against him. The prisoner pleaded "Not guilty," and stated that he was not there, and expected to be able, at some time, to prove it. John F. Freeman, former jailer of Lenoir county, was called and gave evidence regarding the taking of Richard Nobles (white) and Robert Grady, Jun. Miller, Carter Grady and Daniel Smith (colored) from the jail of Lenoir county on the night of the 24th of January last. The prisoner, Mr. Munroe, testified we make the following extract: "Mr. Munroe went down stairs I think before the prisoners were taken out of the jail. The prisoners were taken out of the jail, and the thing going on. There were people down stairs to receive them. Some on horses and some on foot. Some one said 'The prisoners shall we go,' and was answered 'Go toward the stable place,' and they then walked off from the jail. I do not know whether they lived there or not. It is about three-quarters of a mile from the county bridge, I reckon. I should call it a mile from the jail to the county bridge. I can guess. You cannot see the county bridge from the jail. There are houses, bushes and a fence between the jail and the county bridge. I heard the report of the arms of the prisoners half an hour after they left. I only heard one report, it sounded like a volley. I did not hear any other noise at that time. The volley seemed to be in the direction of the bridge. Mr. Munroe did not go to the night before being taken out, by the Sheriff or his deputy, I think. I have not seen prisoners who were taken out of the jail. I do not know what became of them."

From the testimony of another witness in the case, Mr. Wm. White, we take the following:

"I was with Stevens, the coroner, when he held an inquest over a body in Nense river, a mile and a half from Kinston, and just across the county bridge. There was one body. I do not know whether it was a white man or colored. I was not the jury or the coroner. It was a coroner of a brown malatto or a white man. I have no doubt it was the corpse of a man. It was considerably decayed but it was not so much so as when pulled out of the river, the body was from the body. It was at night; was a bright dark night. The coroner had a lantern. I went down to the body and saw it. I did not know whether it was a white man or a colored man. I did not know whether it was a man or woman. I do not know that it is a usual thing in Lenoir county to suffer bodies to float down the river without bringing them to land. I do not know whether it is a usual thing to examine the body and do not see whether there were any wounds or bruises on it. 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